

a valve carried by the housing for providing communication between the reservoir and the scrubbing medium and having a valve stem extending through the reservoir,

an enlarged actuator member connected to said valve stem and having a maximum lateral extent substantially greater than that of the stem,

a cap forming a top wall of the housing and extending transversely of the axis for closing the [open] top opening of the housing and defining an enlarged cap opening therein for receiving the actuator member,

the cap opening having a transverse cross-sectional area substantially smaller than that of the top opening and having a lateral extent greater than the maximum lateral extent of the actuator member, and

a flexible and resilient member covering the actuator member and closing the cap opening while accommodating manual actuation of the actuator member from above the cap.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully asked.

Applicants wish to thank examiner Eloschway for the courtesy of the telephone interview with applicants' undersigned attorney on October 31, 2000, in which the general outlines of this amendment were discussed.

Claims 2-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Craigmile in view of Olson, either alone or further in view of Tourot, all of record. In support of the rejection, the examiner contends that Craigmile discloses all of the claimed subject matter, with the exception of an actuator member, an O-ring and a particular spring location, but that the first of these features is taught by Olson, and that the latter two are taught by Tourot.